



File No. 0522-1730

F/Amit B. Singh
LP
1-21-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE THE APPLICATION OF)
Bosscher, et al.)
SERIAL NO.09/720,744)
FILED: I.A. Filing Date June 28, 1999)
Priority Date June 29, 1998)
FOR: Vacuum Tight Coupling for Tube Sections)

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Honorable Director of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
MAR 19 2003
GROUP 3600

Dear Sir:

This is an amendment and response to the Office Action having a date of mailing of October 4, 2002, a response to which is timely if filed with a certificate of mailing and a petition for a one month extension of time by March 4, 2003. Filed herewith is a petition for extension of time, and the requisite fee. The office is authorized to charge fee to deposit account number 12-0913.

AMENDMENTS

In the drawings:

Attached herewith are amendments to figures 3 and 9, with proposed changes shown in red. Formal drawings incorporating the changes will be supplied upon an indication of allowability.

In the specification:

Please amend the application at page 8 to read as follows:

03/13/2003 MAHME1 00000093 120913 09720744

02 FC:1202 108.00 CH